

Bucs celebrate season



President Rick Rogers was one of the Buc's supporters who received a souvenir cap during ceremonies in the atrium on April 7.

By **Barrett Smith**
Sports Writer

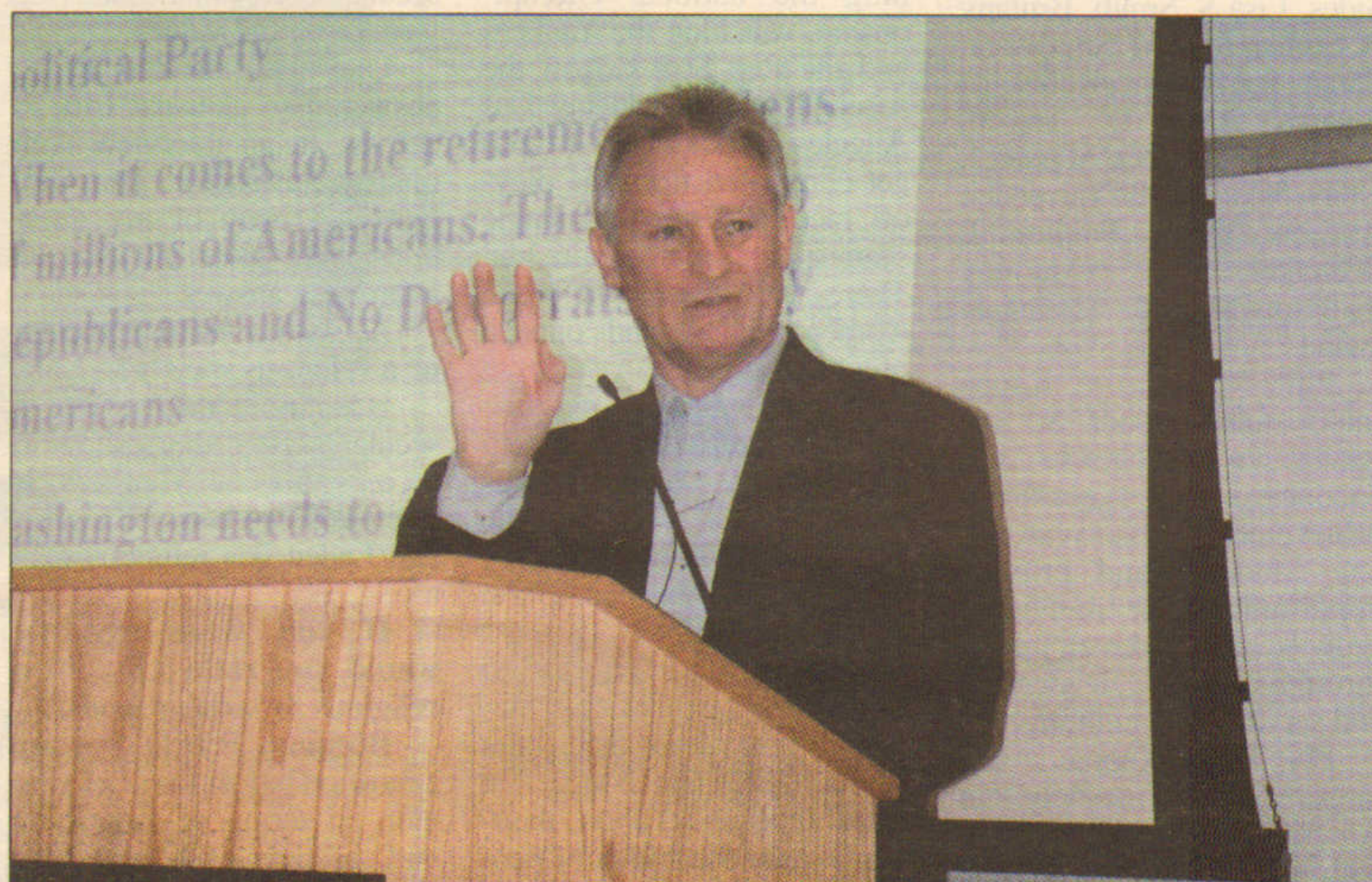
The Shelton State Bucs basketball team has returned home from its final road trip of the season which just happened to be the NJCC National Tournament.

The Bucs were unable to capture the trophy but they were distinguished as the only team to represent Alabama and also have just completed the best season in the history of the Buc's basketball program.

The Bucs lost their first game of the tournament putting them in the losers bracket but would return the next day to defeat Northwest

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Bachus drops by to chat up the numbers



By **Matt Celozzi**
Staff Writer

On March 23, House Representative Spencer Bachus (R. 6th District) paid a visit to the Shelton State campus to publicize President Bush's proposal for Social Security reform and answer questions from students.

In a personal conversation with the *Courier*, Bachus also pledged his continuous support in Congress for federal funding to community colleges like Shelton State, stressing the importance of job training for local communities.

Bachus said he "has supported and continues to support Shelton State" and that Shelton was, in his opinion, "at the top of the list" of excel-

lent community colleges.

He also referred directly to nursing and computer training as career paths important for our transition into the 21st century.

Before a question-and-answer session with students, Rep. Bachus spent approximately 40 minutes explaining the woes that face the Social Security program in the coming years.

The congressman used numerous charts and graphs to illustrate his points.

According to Bachus, the program faces an eventual \$10.4 trillion deficit by 2018, which will increase by \$600 billion per year if nothing is done soon.

He cited numerous reasons for this sudden shortfall including inflation, an ever-

increasing life expectancy, and the fast-approaching retirement of baby-boomers.

Bachus stated that in 1935, when the Social Security program was implemented by President Franklin Roosevelt, most women weren't in the workforce and most workers didn't even reach retirement age to begin collecting their benefits.

Over the years, these factors have changed, rendering the program increasingly under-funded, and investors' money increasingly taxed.

The congressman also made it a point to say that Social Security reform was not a political issue. "When it

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14th fair is the best



Wellness instructor Milady Murphy is interviewed by local media during the recent health fair.

By **AnTonio Nevels**
Staff Writer

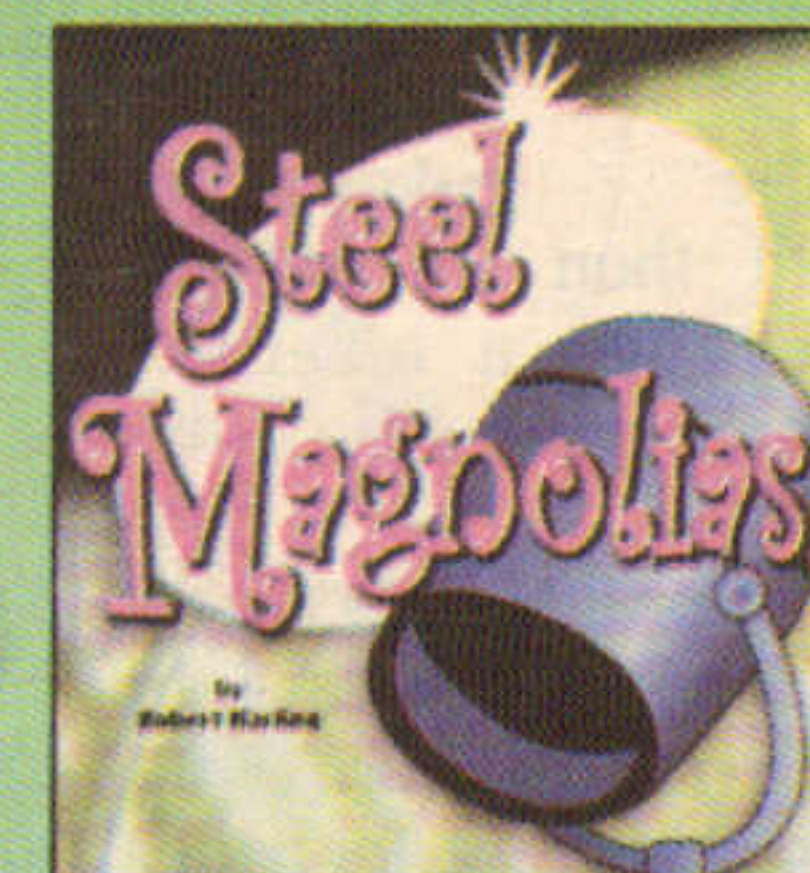
On March 22 the annual Health Fair took place at Shelton State. The Health Fair was held on the 1st floor of the campus where the physical education classes are taught.

You could see that there were well over 100 in attendance at all times through the four-hour fair as they visited various booths to gain insight on different things. Companies such as Maude Whatley Health Services Inc., The Diabetes Center, The Radiology Center, Health South, and Gold's Gym were a few that participated.

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Inside The Courier

- Truvy, Annalle and Clairee visit the Bean... page 5
- ShelTalk investigates the secular vs. the sacred... page 3
- And much more!



Shelton State PTK grows with spring inductees

Shelton State Community College's Alpha Epsilon Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa held its spring induction ceremony on Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bean-Brown Theatre on the Martin Campus. Guest speaker for the event was former PTK advisor Brenda Ryan.

Phi Theta Kappa Spring Inductees include: Neely J. Aitken, Heather Allen, Jennifer Allen, Alana B. Atchison, Carmen B. Bodiford, Laura E. Bonds, William K. Brown, Hannah J. Brown, Jessica J. Carder, Kyung A. Cho, Laura F. Colbert, Leslie Coleman, Samuel Conyers, Summer M. Day, Greg Dike, William B. Doherty, Jared D. Elmore, Cari D. Fowler, Katie L. Garrett, Joann R. Hagood, Katrina A. Hart, Patricia I. Headrick, Bobby D. Hembree, Casey W. Holland, Savannah Howell, Virginia H. Jones, Kayla G. Kahn, Haley M. Kennedy, Brenda K. Lane, Marlana Law, Megan E. Matherson, Tracy McGuffie, Ashley L. Melton, Brandon Mitchell, Daniel K. Mullenix, Kristin R. Nicholson, Sarah A.

Norton, Jessica D. Oliver, Kasey C. Oswalt, Rebecca Patrick, Tiffany E. Perry, Kelly E. Prisoc, Charles A. Pugh, Edward B. Richardson, Lewis B. Shipley, Arielle N. Sides, Lisa S. Smith, Brittany A. Spiller, John M. Sturdivant, Sarah L. Sutton, Robin L. Swartz, Alisa D. Terrell, Candace B. Turner, Marsha J. Utley, Nikki L. Van Luvender, Andrew Watts, Pauline J. Whitaker, Courtney Williamson and Stephanie Wood.

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership and service programming.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.3 million members and 1,100 chapters.

For more information on the Phi Theta Kappa at Shelton State Community College, please contact Claire Brock at 205/391-3918.

Bachus

From Page 1

comes to Social Security, there are no Democrats or Republicans, only Americans."

Though there is no official proposal in front of Congress at the moment, Bachus explained the basics of the President's plan, which is modeled after a savings plan already in place for government employees including Bachus himself.

Workers would have the option to invest a small percentage of what they already pay into a private account, much like an I.R.A.

The government would then invest this money into a non-risky venture, probably low-cost bonds.

The program used now by Congress is said to have a rate-of-return of up to 10.99 percent, far better than the 1.8 percent profit achieved by the current

program.

This plan would likely mean higher benefits for investors upon retirement.

Bachus stressed that this plan would not affect current retirees or those planning on retiring in the next five years.

Social Security reform is one of President Bush's highest priorities in his second term, and has already sparked much discussion in the media and the houses of Congress.

Look for the debate to continue in the coming months.



Shelton students take the opportunity to talk with Rep. Spencer Bachus. Waiting his turn (L) is Courier staff writer Matt Celozzi.

ShelTalk

Secular or sacred?

By AnTonio Nevels

Has anyone been watching television lately? Well I most certainly have. Things such as North Carolina winning the national championship, watching the Yankees and the Red Sox kickoff the baseball season, and my Los Angeles Lackers (not a typo) get eliminated from the play-off race, and also the single scariest thing of my entire life. There were these two white women holding hands outside of a courtroom.

The scary part is that one was very clearly Liza Minnelli and I think the other one was named Michael.

But in all seriousness most of us saw when Pope John Paul II passed away.

Though most were sad to see that such an important religious figure had died, you couldn't help but notice that there thousands upon thousands upon thousands of people that were in front of the Vatican.

So I asked myself, "What's religion's role in our society?" What most of remember about the Presidential Election is "red state or blue state."

Religiously inclined people feel that they're under attack by free thinkers and they feel that religious people are taking over.

Certain TV channels serve a liberal objective while others show a more conservative bias. Someone said to me recently that the religious

influence on society is becoming more evident while a friend and I disagreed with that. We felt that we are a more secular society that is starving for morals and values.

Questions needed to be answered so as usual I try to deliver. In an interview with history instructor Dr. Carl Boening many of my questions were given at least an interesting answer.

Are we a secular society or a religious society?

Boening: I think we're a secular society that claims to be religious one. That term is often misused because Osama Bin Laden is a religious man too.

If you were agnostic would you rather live in a religious or secular world?

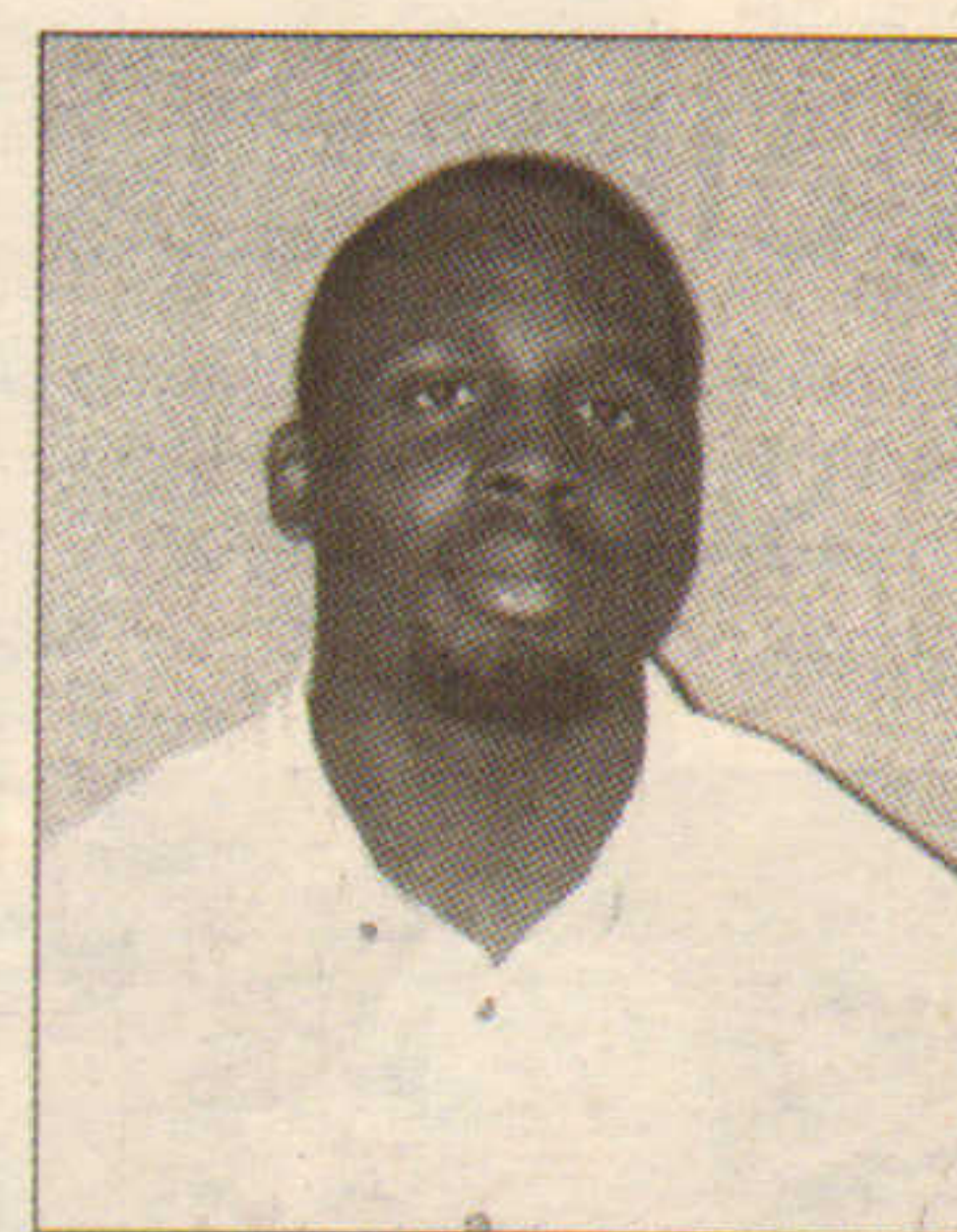
Boening: People that are agnostic tend to think of religion in terms of fanaticism and associate it with the Taliban and things of that nature. But they like the idea of prayer and things like that.

Are we a society that's starving for morals?

Boening: Yes, and I think that's pretty obvious. As a society we've removed God from all of our public institutions. You can't have morals if you don't have some kind of foundation.

Is the Pope's death in any way significant in terms of how we look at the world?

Boening: It is always politically significant as well as



AnTonio Nevels is a sophomore at Shelton State.

religiously. His position affects the lives of literally 1 billion people, or people that claim to be Catholic anyway.

Why was Michael Schiavo so heavily persecuted for his decision even though we are a supposedly a secular society?

Boening: I think the polls had shown that she should have been allowed to do die. But I think the public disliked him was because his motives were impure. He had a fiancée, he had two children, and maybe he wanted to get back at her family. So that's probably why he wasn't liked as much...

When Terri Schiavo's feeding tube was removed

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Shelton State Courier

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The Shelton State Courier is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working

with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

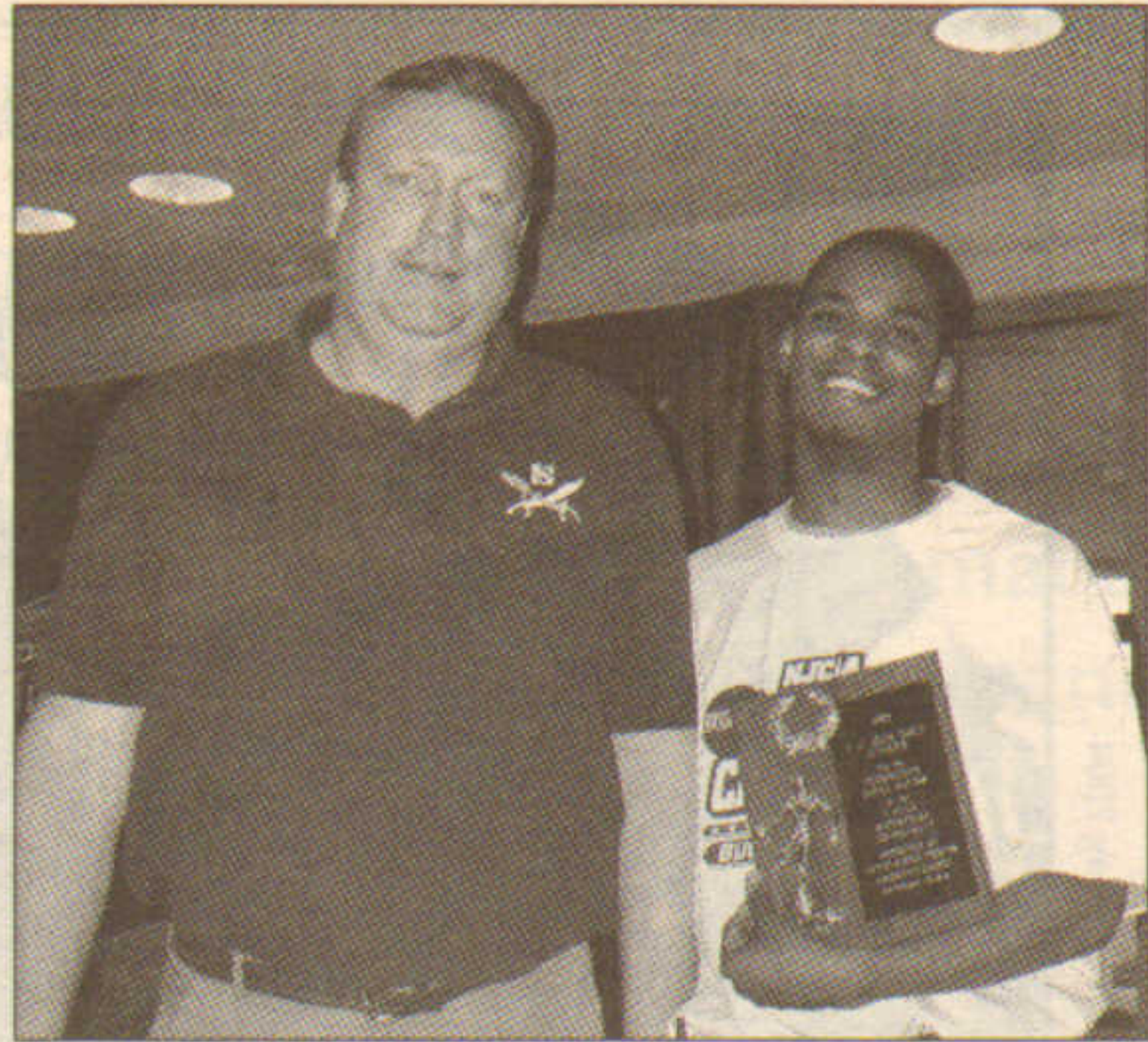
The Courier is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Basketball From Page 1

Mississippi 94 - 81.

After the victory over Northwest Mississippi the Bucs played in the 7th and 8th place consolation game only to fall short losing 88-83 to North Dakota. The Bucs finished the National tournament in 8th place and 30-8 on the season. The team's record at the national was 2-2 with a victory also over Global Institute of Technology.

The Bucs did not leave Hutchinson Kansas complete-



Buccaneer basketball coach Barry Mohun hands Tarrance Crump Bud Obee Small Player award.

as one of the preceding winners is former Atlanta Hawks guard and slam dunk champion Spud Webb.

Although the Bucs would have liked to have brought home the trophy nobody held their head down as they returned to

Miles are to visit West Texas University. And then of course there is Tarrance Crump who will probably be the most missed Buc come next fall.

Crump has received calls and visits (and cupcakes or

Although many of the Bucs will be leaving there still is a good bit of upside as standout 6th man Quinn Beckwith and starting center Curtis Parker will be back in the lineup for next season.



The Bucs were recognized for their outstanding season in an atrium ceremony on April 7.

ly empty handed as standout point guard Tarrance Crump won the Bud Obee Small Player award.

This award is given to the player no taller than 6'1" who displays good character, leadership, loyalty and defensive abilities. This puts Crump in good company,

campus.

After all, they did win the state and district 10 championships and got to make their first trip to the National Tournament where Kiah Brown said "it was as good as it gets as far as junior college basketball."

The Bucs do have some remodeling to do in the off season as the bulk of their starters are moving on to bigger and better things.

Clifton Douglas is expected to make a formal trip to Northern Kentucky University and Leonard Scott and Marcus



The SSCC cheerleaders add to the festivities.

whatever else is legal) from a number of division 1 schools including Illinois, Oklahoma, Hawaii, Arkansas, USC, and Purdue so he has some pondering to do this off season to decide where he wants to go next although he probably cant go wrong with any of these schools.

Sharpshooters Casey Holland and Kiah Brown will also be back with point guard Kyle Sellars who looked very solid and consistent whenever playing time came his way this season. Bryan Carr, Jason Elmore, and crowd favorite Eric Shuman will also be returning.



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'Beauty Shop Bells' bloom at Theatre Tuscaloosa

Theatre Tuscaloosa will present the heartwarming comedy *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling April 22 through May 1 at the Bean-Brown Theatre.

The all-women ensemble cast includes Lauren Carr as Truvy, Amanda Dodson as Annelle, Ava Buchanan as Clairee, Holli Isom as Shelby, Kathy Wilson as M'Lynn and Drew Baker as Ouiser.

Directed by Paul K. Looney, the artistic team includes Ben Boyer (sets), Jeanette Waterman (costumes), Erin Hisey (lighting) and Jan Lav (stage manager).

Louisiana-born lawyer/actor/playwright Robert Harling wrote *Steel Magnolias* originally as a short story to help him deal with the untimely death of his diabetic sister following childbirth. "My nephew was about to turn five," he explains, "and I suddenly realized that if I didn't put down on paper what happened to his mother, he'd never know who she was."

Luckily, Harling elected to tell his tragic story with a heavy dose of Southern humor, and he set it in a place in which he claims he has never

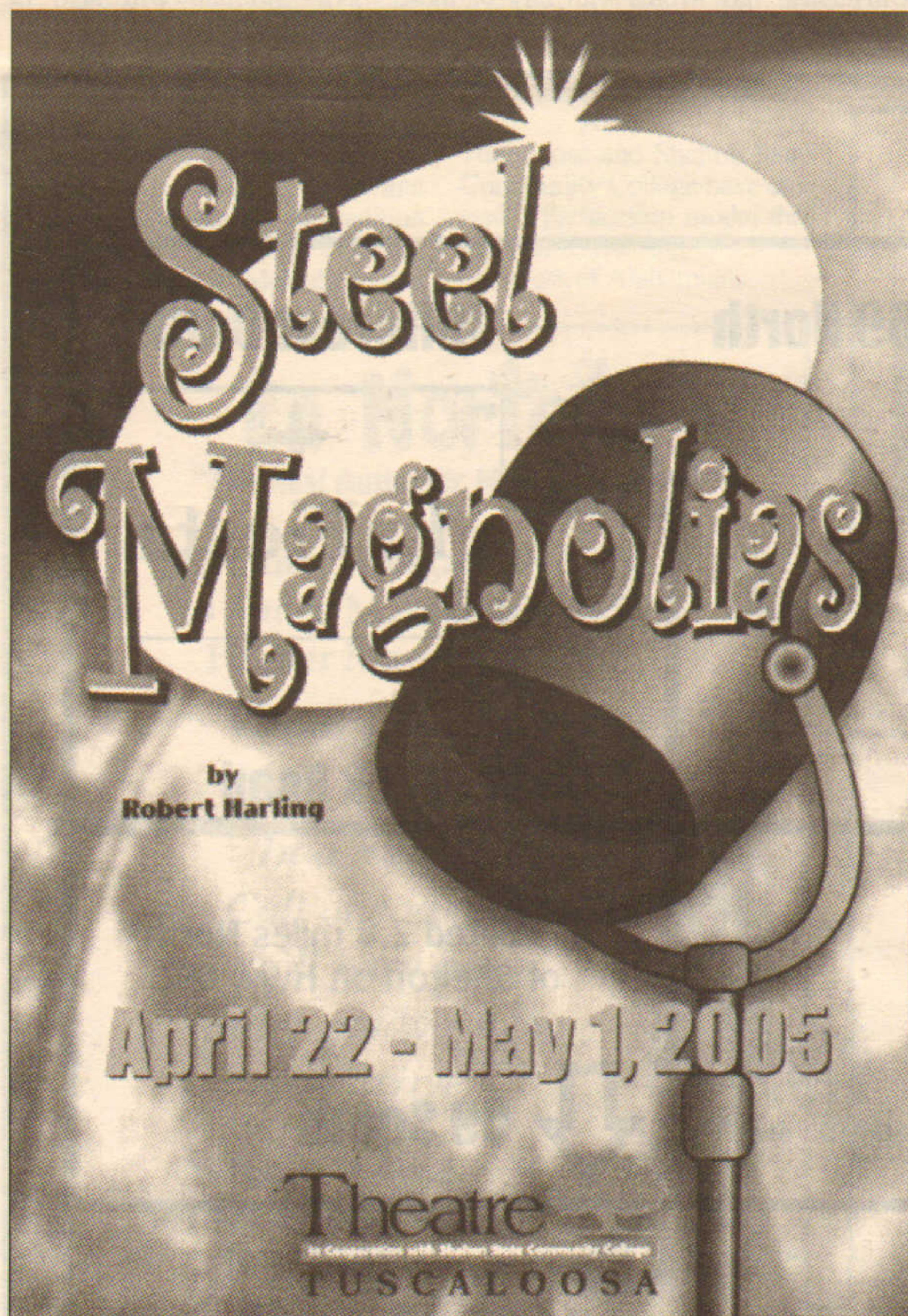
set foot — a beauty parlor, the mysterious and fascinating place where his mother and sister would disappear for a few hours each week with their friends.

"I realized the story really had nothing to do with the men," he says. "It was about these women and their support systems. I wanted to have the women comfortable enough to let their hair down."

Six soft-hearted 'magnolias' with steely dispositions gather regularly at Truvy's Beauty Salon, the unofficial hub of Chinquapin, La., to chitchat with, counsel, criticize and comfort one another.

The wise-cracking Truvy, with the help of her new glamour technician, Annelle, dispenses liberal doses of shampoo, hairspray, free advice and gossip to the town's rich curmudgeon, Ouiser; an eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee; and the local social worker, M'Lynn, whose daughter, Shelby, is on the verge of marriage. The play

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**Steel
Magnolias**

by
Robert Harling

April 22 - May 1, 2005

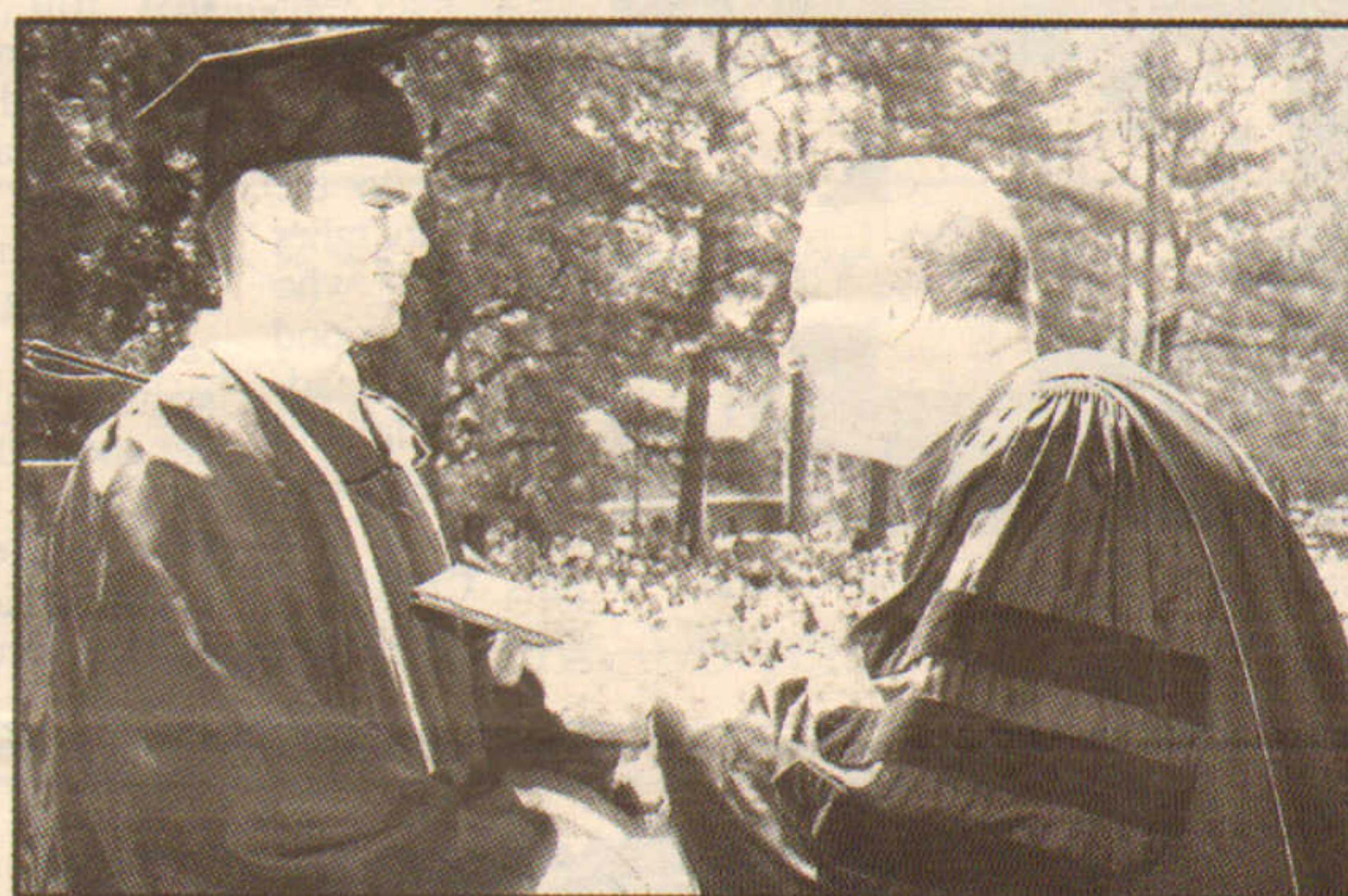
Theatre
TUSCALOOSA



Commencement at Flowerhill, spring 2004

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Bucs lose series of one-run games

By Matt Cellozi
Staff Writer

In baseball, getting beat by five or six runs can be disappointing. But losing by one run is arguably even worse. The Shelton State Bucs have dropped seven one-run games in conference play this season, but Coach Sprowl isn't disheartened.

"We've been in every game so far, which is a good thing," said Sprowl. "We just lost some games we should have won."

And that is precisely what keeps Coach Sprowl optimistic through this current trend. The Bucs aren't experiencing serious flaws in their fundamental game. Pitching has been good and runs

haven't generally been hard to come by.

"Baseball is bigger than any one player," added Sprowl. "It's a team thing."

But Shelton has been getting some outstanding individual performances as well. Sophomore Ben Daw is hitting a remarkable .493 with 26 driven in and sophomore Corey Carter is following suit, hitting .349 with 4 home runs. On the mound, sophomore Brett Bowen is 4 and 2 with a stellar 2.88 E.R.A.

The Bucs look to build on these bright spots as the season continues. Shelton squares off with Meridian on Tuesday, April 12 at 2 p.m. Coach Sprowl and the Bucs encourage all students to attend and lend support.



Students achieve 'outstanding' pass rates

Students in the Barbering and Cosmetology Program at Shelton State achieved a 96 percent pass rate on the state exams for the quarter from June 1 to Sept. 30, 2004.

"We had 25 students taking the state board exams that quarter," said Shirley Nix, program chair.

"One hundred percent of them passed the practical portion of the exam and 22 passed the written portion."

"Shelton State is one of the top schools in the state for its passing rate on these tests."

Nix also stated that of the 31 students currently enrolled in the cosmetology department's co-op program, 21 have already been placed in full time jobs when they complete their course of study.

Of the eight students in the co-op barbering programs, all have full-time jobs waiting for them upon completion.

There are currently 120 students enrolled in the programs at Shelton State.

"Most of our students get jobs in West Alabama—Tuscaloosa, Northport, Eutaw, Demopolis and Brookwood," said Nix. "Even starting out, if they work at it, they can make about \$25,000 per year."

The Alabama Board of Cosmetology uses the N.I.C. Test administered by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology.

The test is used by 30 states as well as Guam and the District of Columbia and provides for reciprocal licensing among participating states.

In addition to Barbering and Cosmetology, Shelton State also offers programs in Instructor Training, Esthetics and Nail Technology.

For more information on these programs, please contact Shirley Nix at 205/391-2425.

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For more information call Publisher Dr. Jim Kenny at the Courier office at 391-2406 or drop by room 2319.



Shelton State

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Theatre From Page 4

visits these women over the course of two years in which together they experience love, joy, pain, death and rebirth.

Steel Magnolias premiered at the WPA Theatre in New York on March 22, 1987, and subsequently transferred to the off-Broadway Lucille Lortel Theatre, where it ran for an impressive 1,126 performances and was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award.

The first Broadway production of the play opened April 4th of this year. The story achieved widespread acclaim and popularity in a 1989 movie version.

"When we decided to present a comedy for our 2004-2005 season, it didn't take long to choose *Steel Magnolias*. Robert Harling is a writer who possesses unique comic and dramatic gifts. With *Steel Magnolias*, he brings to us a world of strong women whose mettle is tested and who emerge from crisis with a deeper understanding of life, each other, and their world," said director Paul Looney.

"The 'Steel Magnolias' are six women - each unique, each one more colorful than the next—and, in the tradition of great Southern comedy, from Carson McCullers and

Eudora Welty to Beth Henley, each possesses a colorful story to tell about what it means to be human," he continued.

Steel Magnolias opens on Friday April 22 at 7:30 p.m. with performances continuing April 23 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 24 at 2 p.m. Other performances are scheduled for April 27 at 2 p.m., April 28, 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m. and May 1 at 2 p.m.

Tickets for *Steel Magnolias* are currently on sale at the Theatre Tuscaloosa Box Office or by calling 205-391-2277.

Prices are \$17 for adults, \$14 for students and seniors and \$5 for Shelton State students.

Theatre Tuscaloosa, one of the largest community theatres in the state, works in partnership with Shelton State Community College to provide quality theatrical experiences to the citizens of West Alabama through performances, workshops and classroom instruction.

By combining the talent and resources of the non-profit theatre company with the facilities and administrative support of "Alabama's Community College of the Fine Arts," Theatre Tuscaloosa and Shelton State Community College have created a partnership model that has enriched the lives of countless of Alabamians.

It's cool in the morning, at Shelton State



Already the days are pushing into the '80s and another blistering summer seems on the horizon. But at 7:20 a.m., the sun is just coming up over the college dome, the parking lot is empty and everything at SSCC is just plain cool.

SSCC Summer 2005

Web and Telephone Registration began April 11th
Early Registration and Advising April 11th—14th,
8 a.m.—6 p.m.

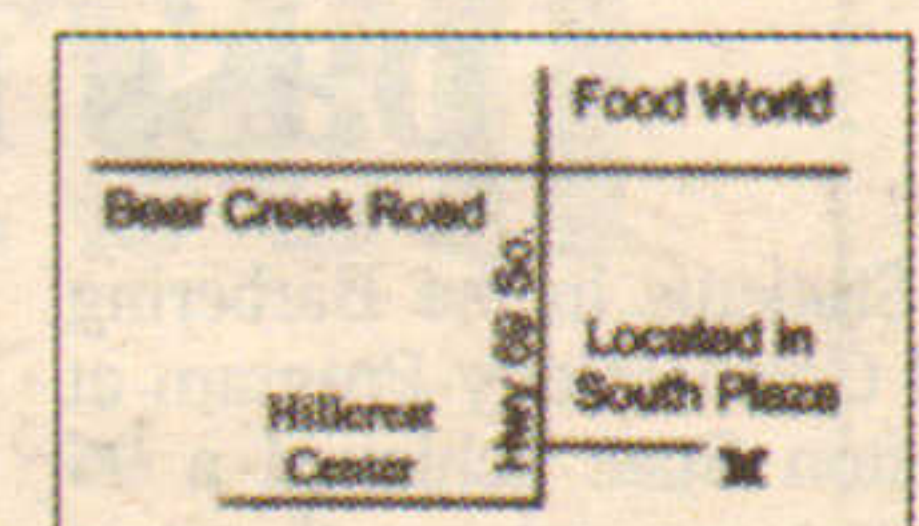
Shear Artistry



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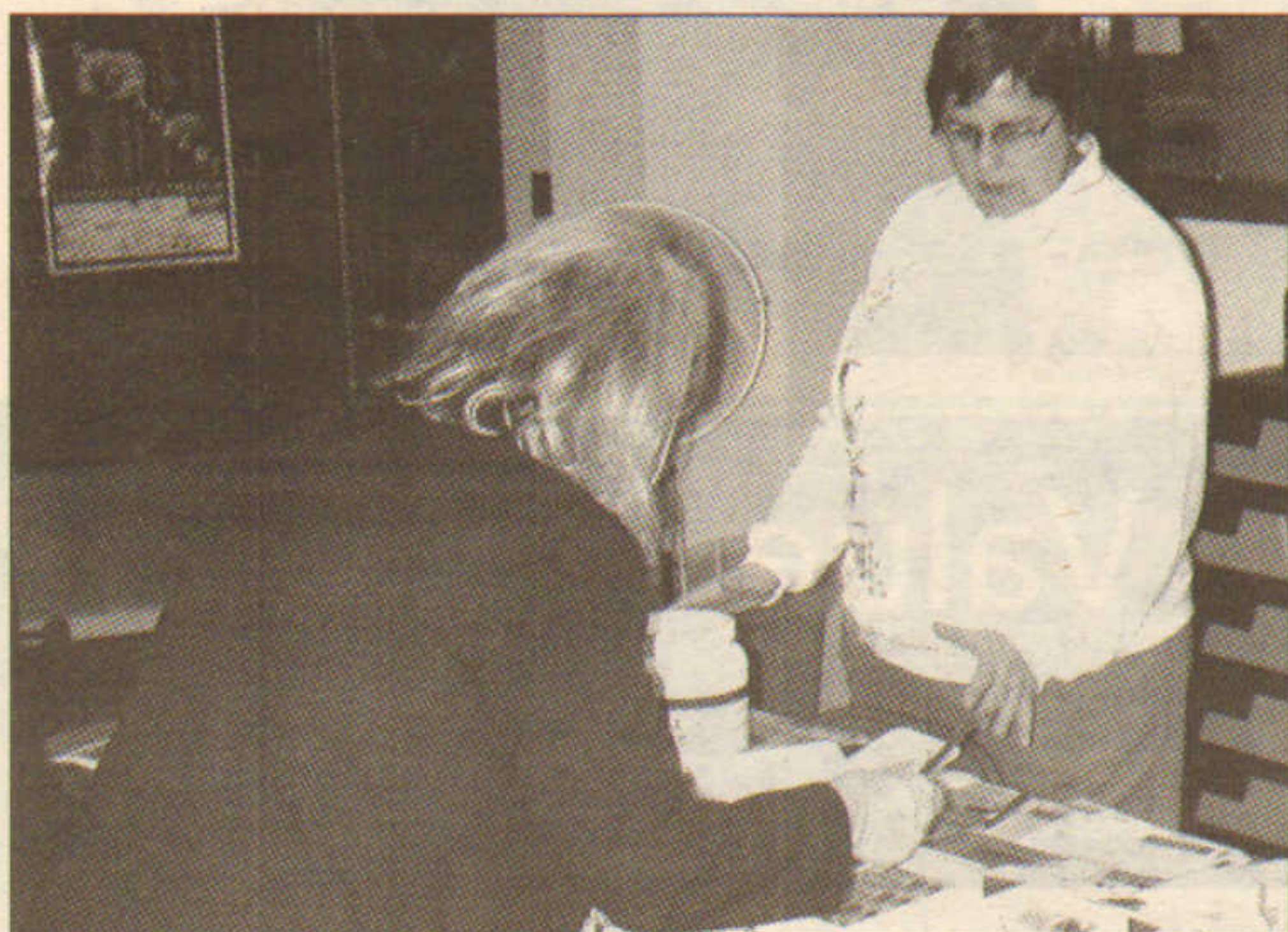
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Wellness From Page 1

Students had the opportunity to visit several booths and gather information about the companies. Most of the businesses gave away brochures telling about their companies. Some gave away things such as cups, brownies, coupons



for smoothies, and protein shakes. One may have wanted to ask one of the GNC representatives about steroids; presumably, however, with Major League Baseball not in one's future, one may have refrained from asking.

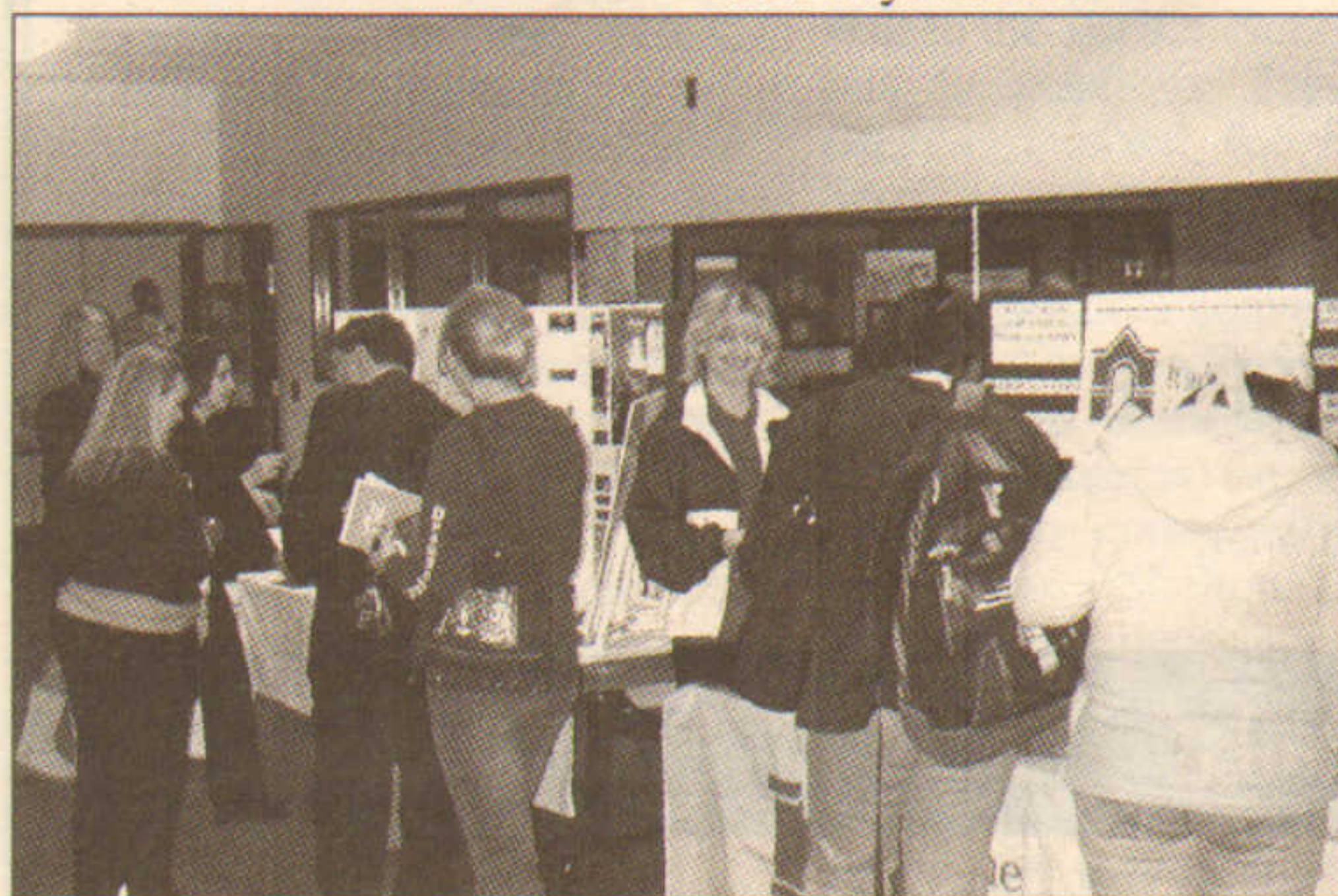
Dr. Milady Murphy coordinates the fair every year. "We've been hosting this fair for 14 years now and it gets larger and larger by the year," says Murphy. She also said,

"You can see the enthusiasm from the community for nutrition and medicine."

It's good to see the companies working together as opposed to competing with one another. Kareem McNeal, weight training instructor, said, "It's exciting to expose people to different businesses in the community as it relates to health. Murphy says, "All

of the stores working together can be fun and entertaining. It also emphasizes cooperation and not competition."

The favorite activity of the day seemed to be from The SpineCare Center, which is located at DCH. It was a favorite because they were offering free massages and many said they never had one before. The two who were attending the booth were Holly King and Pam Courtney McNeil.



ShelTalk From Page 2

people were calling her husband things such as a murderer and a minion of the devil. However there was another side that said he had to make a tough decision and he did the right thing. I won't condemn him for his decision but I will never applaud it either. Michael Schiavo had to make a choice that basically boiled down to his morals and his

beliefs.

A society without morals is scary personally, but you have to have a system of checks and balances. Religion will always have a place in the world and what's so wrong with that?

Our country was built upon religious principles, I think, so it's forever imbedded into nation's proverbial fabric. But if everyone believed in the same thing or didn't believe, the world would be a very dull place indeed.

SSCC Dates to Remember

Honors Day—May 1, 2 p.m.
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Spring Commencement—May 6, 1 p.m.
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GED Graduation—May 7, 10 a.m.
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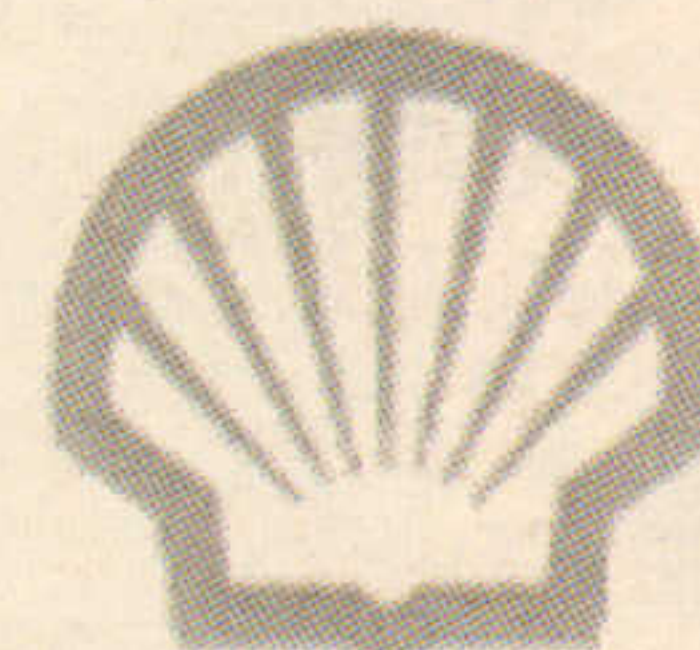
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Softball team holds its own after change at the top

Before the sudden departure of Mitch Mitchell early in his first season, the Buccaneer softball squad was playing about .500 ball; since then the team has continued to win about half its games, despite the distractions.

Credit for pulling the team together and proceeding forward should go to interim head coach Chris Sanford and his assistant, head basketball coach Madonna Thompson.

Sanford is Thompson's assistant for the women's basketball team.

As of April 8, according to local media reports, the Bucs were 15-13 overall and 2-2 in Central Div. conference play.

Sanford works for Tuscaloosa County's Parks and Recreation Authority and coaches at Shelton on a nine-month teacher's contract.

Sanford commented to the local media about working

w i t h Thompson in a new role, with a new relationship: "We both enjoy it. We don't like losing at all. We don't plan on taking losing. We work well together."



Head coach and assistant, Chris Sanford and Madonna thompson have reversed roles after taking the reins of the softball program on an interim basis.

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